

~~1. (Amended) An ink absorbent contained in the housing of an ink tank for storing ink in the interior thereof provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, and an atmospheric communication port to be communicated with air outside, being formed by fiber material having a surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein the ink absorbent formed by fiber material has a face structured by a cut face.~~

~~2. (Amended) An ink absorbent contained in the housing of an ink tank for storing ink in the interior thereof provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, and an atmospheric communication port to be communicated with the air outside, being formed by fiber material having a surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein the face of said ink absorbent facing said supply port on the inner face of said ink tank is a cut face.~~

3. (Not Changed From Previous Version) An ink absorbent according to Claim 2, wherein the face of said ink absorbent abutting upon a rib on the inner face of said ink tank is the non-cut thermoformed face thereof.

4. (Not Changed From Previous Version) An ink absorbent according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the face of said ink absorbent facing the atmospheric communication port of said ink tank is the non-cut thermormed face thereof.

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C2

5. (Amended) An ink absorbent contained in the housing of an ink for storing ink in the interior thereof provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, and an atmospheric communication port to be communicated with the air outside, being formed by fiber material having a surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein the face of said ink absorbent facing the plane having the largest area on the inner face of said ink tank is a cut face thereof.

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6. (Amended) An ink absorbent according to Claim 5, wherein said ink tank comprises a negative pressure generating member installation changer; a liquid storage chamber communicated with said negative pressure generating member installation chamber through a communication portion to store ink to be supplied to said negative pressure generating member installation chamber substantially closed with the exception of said communication portion; and a partition wall member having said communication portion, partitioning said negative pressure generating member installation chamber and said liquid storage chamber.

7. (Not Changed From Previous Version) An ink absorbent according to Claim 6, wherein the face of said ink absorbent facing said partition wall member is the cut face thereof.

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8. (Amended) An ink absorbent contained in the housing of an ink tank for storing ink in the interior thereof provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the

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cont.

outside, and an atmospheric communication port to be communicated with the air outside,  
being formed by fiber material having a surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein  
two faces of said ink absorbent opposite to each other are cut faces.

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9. (Not Changed From Previous Version) An ink absorbent according to  
Claim 8, wherein said cut faces are parallel in the fiber direction.

10. (Not Changed From Previous Version) An ink tank containing an ink  
absorbent according to any one of Claims 2, 3 or 5-9 in the interior thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) An ink absorbent compressed and inserted into the  
interior of an ink tank housing for installation to retain ink, wherein  
said ink absorbent is cut into the inner shape of the ink tank housing under  
the same condition of compression as at the time of insertion thereof into the ink tank.

12. (Withdrawn) An ink absorbent according to Claim 11, wherein the  
degree of compression at the time of cutting is lower than that of the compressed state after  
the insertion into the ink tank.

13. (Withdrawn) An ink absorbent according to Claim 12, wherein said  
ink absorbent is formed by foaming material or fiber material.

14. (Withdrawn) An ink absorbent according to Claim 11 or Claim 12, wherein said ink absorbent is formed by laminating two or more fiber blocks.

15. (Withdrawn) An ink tank provided with an ink absorbent capable of retaining ink, and a housing having said ink absorbent installed therein and an atmospheric communication port, wherein

said ink absorbent is cut into the inner shape of the ink tank housing under the same compressed state as at the time of insertion into the ink tank.

16. (Withdrawn) An ink jet cartridge comprising:

an ink tank provided with an ink absorbent capable of retaining ink, and a housing having said ink absorbent installed therein, said ink absorbent being cut into the inner shape of the ink tank housing under the same compressed state as at the time of insertion into the ink tank; and

a printing head for discharging ink supplied from said ink tank.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing an ink absorbent compressed and inserted into an ink tank housing to be able to retain ink, comprising the following steps:

making said ink absorbent to be in the same compressed state as at the time of insertion into the ink tank; and

cutting said ink absorbent into the inner shape of said ink tank housing.